

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A data transfer apparatus, comprising:

an equipment attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of an equipment connected to a network wherein the attribute information is included in the content of data received in a communication from the equipment;

an equipment attribute information selecting unit selecting attribute information of first and second equipments among equipment attribute information acquired by said equipment attribute information acquiring unit;

a data attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of data managed by the first equipment selected by said equipment attribute information selecting unit;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit and on attribute information of said second equipment; and

a data transfer instructing unit instructing data transfer from said first equipment to said second equipment by the transfer method selected by said transfer selecting unit.

10. (Original) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said transfer selecting unit selects a protocol based on the attribute information of data acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit.

11. (Original) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said transfer selecting unit selects a command set based on the attribute information of data acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit.

12. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A data transfer apparatus, comprising:

an equipment attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of an equipment connected to a network from the equipment using a common protocol wherein the attribute information is included in the content of data received in a communication from the equipment;

an equipment attribute information selecting unit selecting attribute information of first and second equipments among equipment attribute information acquired by said equipment attribute information acquiring unit;

a data attribute information acquiring unit acquiring attribute information of data managed by the first equipment selected by said equipment attribute information selecting unit from the first equipment using said common protocol;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a method of data transfer based on the attribute information of data acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit and on attribute information of said second equipment; and

a data transfer instructing unit instructing data transfer from said first equipment to said second equipment by the transfer method selected by said transfer selecting unit.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the attribute information is extracted from the communication.

25. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the attribute information is extracted from the communication.

34. – 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A data transfer apparatus, comprising:

an equipment attribute information acquiring unit acquiring equipment attribute information of an equipment connected to a network;

an equipment attribute information selecting unit selecting the equipment attribute information of a first and second equipments from among the equipment attribute information acquired by said equipment attribute information acquiring unit;

a data attribute information acquiring unit acquiring data attribute information of each data item managed by the first equipment selected by said equipment attribute information selecting unit;

a transfer selecting unit selecting a data transfer method based on the equipment attribute information of the second equipment and on the data attribute information of the first equipment acquired by said data attribute information acquiring unit; and

a transfer method designating unit notifying one or both of the first and second equipments of the data transfer method selected by said transfer selecting unit.

45. (Previously Presented) The data transfer apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising an attribute displaying unit displaying some or all of the equipment attribute information and/or the data attribute information.

46. – 53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A program product for a computer to execute a method of data transfer, wherein said method includes

acquiring equipment attribute information of an equipment connected to a network;

selecting the equipment attribute information of a first and second equipments from among the acquired equipment attribute information;

acquiring data attribute information of each data item managed by the selected first equipment;

selecting a data transfer method based on the equipment attribute information of the second equipment and on the acquired data attribute information of the first equipment; and

notifying one or both of the first and second equipments of the selected data transfer method.

55. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium recording a program for a computer to execute a method of data transfer, wherein said method includes

acquiring equipment attribute information of an equipment connected to a network;

selecting the equipment attribute information of a first and second equipments from among the acquired equipment attribute information;

acquiring data attribute information of each data item managed by the selected first equipment;

selecting a data transfer method based on the equipment attribute information of the second equipment and on the acquired data attribute information of the first equipment; and

notifying one or both of the first and second equipments of the selected data transfer method.